

Sinclair Broadcasting's plan to air an anti-Kerry documentary is an example of media consolidation and the abuse that inevitably results from it.

The airwaves belong to the people and their use is a privilege bestowed on broadcasters in exchange for a simple promise: broadcast material should serve the public interest. Media consolidation has eroded this concept and threatens to turn American airwaves into Soviet-style mouthpieces for government policy driven by special interests. This situation is the kind of thing that revolutions spring up to resist.

When honesty and balance in the media is lost, modern democracy loses all meaning. The signs of a coming police state are all around us and the public airwaves are the only viable method for reversing this trend toward totalitarianism. Is this an exaggeration? Maybe, maybe not and therein lies the heart of the matter: we simply cannot afford to erode the ability of people to get real information, from real people in varied locations who have varied views.

Sinclair's actions with regard to their unbalanced, so-called "news" story about John Kerry are the antithesis of democratic ideals. It's propaganda and belongs in a theater where people can choose to see it and believe it or not. Or it should be broadcast in conjunction with an anti-Bush or pro-Kerry "documentary".

Apparently in America today more than ever before, democracy is commodity to be bought and sold to the highest bidder.